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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	INL-00	DEAE-00	DINT-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	PERC-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00
	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	JUSE-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OMB-01
	OPIC-01	PA-00	PC-01	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00
	SP-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/008W				

-----8130B6 091101Z /38

R 091040Z APR 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5378
INFO CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
NSC WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B6

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 000926

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NSC FOR AMB MAISTO, SOUTHCOM FOR POLAD, INR FOR INR/B

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/08/12
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PINR, SNAR, VE
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SHAPIRO'S MEETING WITH FREDDY BERNAL.
CLASSIFIED BY CHARLES SHAPIRO, AMBASSADOR. REASON 1.5 (B)
AND (D)

SUMMARY:

1. (U) THE AMBASSADOR MADE A COURTESY CALL ON LIBERTADOR
MAYOR FREDDY BERNAL ON APRIL 4. BERNAL DISCUSSED HIS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, E. R. LOHMAN, DAS, A/RPS
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 8 APR 2012
DATE/CASE ID: 31 AUG 2004 200400113

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PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT CHAVEZ, HIS GOALS AS MAYOR OF THE CENTRAL CORE OF METRO CARACAS, AND HIS VIEW OF RADICALS SUCH AS LINA RON. BERNAL,

[REDACTED] WAS WELCOMING AND FRIENDLY, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT COULD COOPERATE WITH HIS OFFICE ON ANTI-DRUG PROGRAMS AT THE STREET LEVEL, ONE OF HIS MAIN CONCERNS FOR THE CITY OF CARACAS.. END SUMMARY.

B1

AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH BERNAL

2.(C) THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH FREDDY BERNAL, MAYOR OF THE LIBERTADOR MUNICIPALITY OF CARACAS, ON APRIL 4 TO TALK ABOUT HIS ROLE AS MAYOR [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] LIBERTADOR MUNICIPALITY INCLUDES THE COLONIAL BUILDINGS OF CENTRAL CARACAS AND HAS 2.5 MILLION INHABITANTS, BY FAR THE MOST POPULOUS MUNICIPALITY IN THE METRO AREA. BERNAL BEGAN THE DISCUSSION BY TALKING ABOUT HIS OWN POLITICAL HISTORY AND HOW HE CAME TO KNOW PRESIDENT CHAVEZ. BERNAL DID NOT BEGIN HIS PROFESSIONAL LIFE AS A POLITICIAN. HE STUDIED AT THE METROPOLITAN POLICE ACADEMY AND BEGAN HIS TRAINING IN POLICE TECHNOLOGY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE. HE SAID HE GRADUATED AT THE TOP OF HIS CLASS, [REDACTED]

B1

B1

THE CHAVEZ CONNECTION

3.(U) ACCORDING TO BERNAL, IN MARCH 1992 HE FIRST MADE CONTACT WITH HUGO CHAVEZ, WHO WAS IN PRISON AT THE TIME. THEY WROTE BACK AND FORTH FOR SEVERAL MONTHS WITHOUT EVER MEETING. AFTER PRESIDENT CALDERA ISSUED THE AMNESTY, BERNAL FINALLY MET CHAVEZ. SINCE THAT TIME, BERNAL HAS DEDICATED HIMSELF TO CHAVEZ AND THE REVOLUTION. [REDACTED]

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HIS ROLE AS MAYOR

4.(U) BERNAL SEES HIS MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE BOLIVARIAN REVOLUTION AS MAKING CARACAS A FUNCTIONING CITY. HE BELIEVES THAT AS THE CAPITAL, CARACAS SHOULD BE THE "BASTION OF THE REVOLUTION." HE BELIEVES STRONGLY IN HIS CONNECTION TO THE PEOPLE, AND STILL LIVES IN THE SAME HOUSE IN THE CATIA NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE HE LIVED BEFORE BECOMING MAYOR. AS MAYOR, HE HAS FOUR MAJOR PRIORITIES FOR THE CITY: 1) CLEANING UP THE TRASH FROM THE STREETS; 2) IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF PUBLIC ROADS; 3) IMPROVING PUBLIC AREAS SUCH AS PARKS AND PLAZAS; AND 4) MANAGING THE PROBLEM WITH UNLICENSED STREET VENDORS. BERNAL LAMENTED THAT THE CITY'S TAX REVENUES ARE TOO LOW TO TACKLE THE CITY'S PROBLEMS. THE CITY'S ESTIMATED 27,000 STREET VENDORS ARE UNREGULATED, AND DO NOT PAY INCOME OR SALES TAXES. HE IS WORKING ON A SYSTEM TO REGULATE THEIR TRADE, PERHAPS BY CREATING MARKET AREA FOR THEM TO WORK IN, BUT KNOWS THAT THIS WILL BE DIFFICULT DUE TO SPACE CONSTRAINTS.

DRUGS

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ACTION WHA-00

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	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/008W				

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R 091040Z APR 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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B1

COMMENT

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BIO DATA:

8. FULL NAME: FREDDY ALIRIO BERNAL ROSALES
DOB: 16 JUNE 1962
POB: SAN CRISTOBAL, TACHIRA STATE
CURRENT POSITION: MAYOR, LIBERTADOR DISTRICT OF CARACAS
PRIOR POSITIONS: POLICE OFFICER, CARACAS METROPOLITAN
POLICE

B6

EDUCATION: ESCUELA DE FORMACION DE OFICIALES DE LA POLICIA
METROPOLITANA. DEGREE: TECNICO SUPERIOR EN TECNOLOGIA
POLICIALES.

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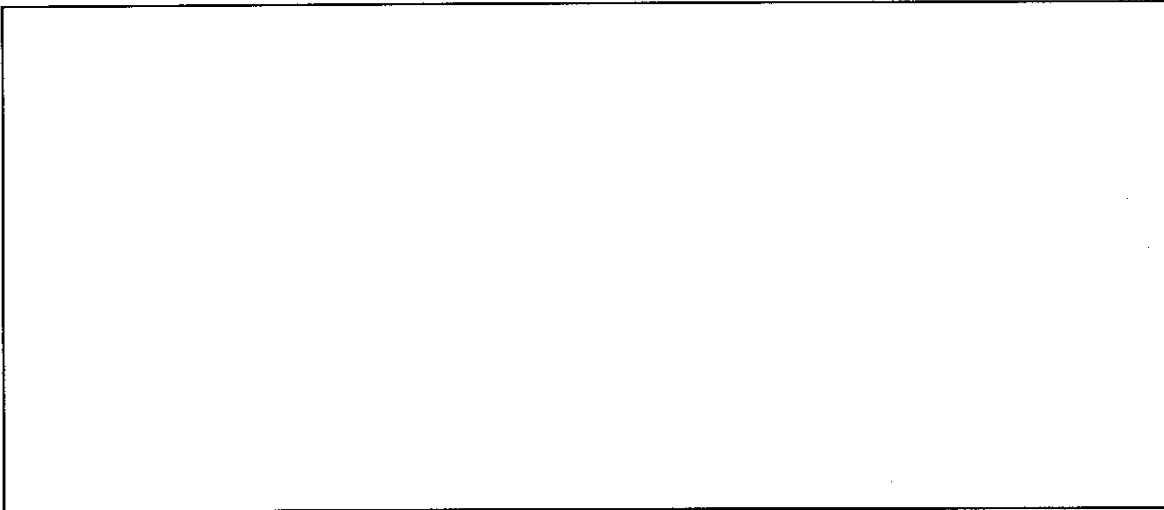
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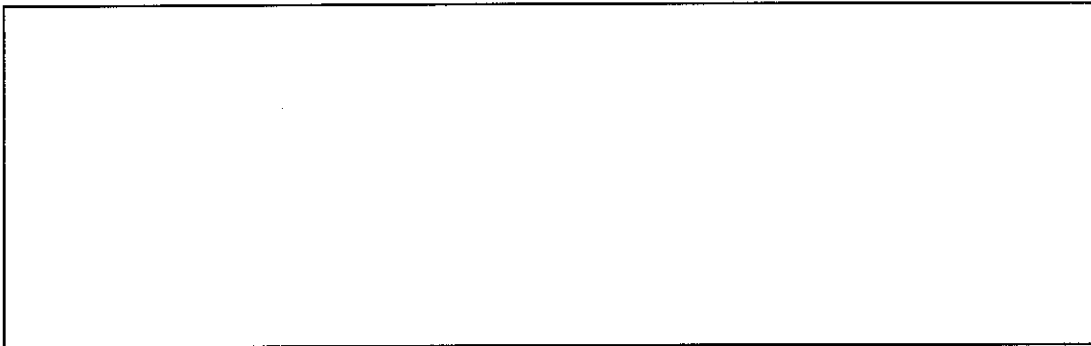
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EDUCATION: ESCUELA DE FORMACION DE OFICIALES DE LA POLICIA
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